

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 are pending. In this Response, claims 1, 6, 8, 14, 19, 20, 30 and 31 have been amended.

I. DECISION ON APPEAL

The Decision on Appeal dated November 19, 2004 sustained the rejection of claims 1-29 and reversed the rejection of claims 30-40. In this Response, the independent claims have been amended to more clearly distinguish over the cited references. No new matter has been added.

II. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

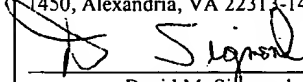
An Information Disclosure Statement with an accompanying PTO-1449 and the cited references was filed on January 15, 2003, and the return postcard date stamped January 21, 2003 establishing receipt of same by the Patent Office was returned. However, the outstanding Office Action fails to acknowledge the Information Disclosure Statement or attach a copy of the PTO-1449.

Applicant requests that a copy of the PTO-1449 indicating that the cited references have been considered be attached to the next written communication to Applicant.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Should any issues remain, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 23, 2004.

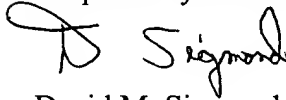


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11/23/04

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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